

WELCOME

The *DEQbicle* is a quarterly newsletter about the good work we do at the DEQ. Articles are written by staff for staff - tying together our awareness and understanding of the DEQ's mission and programs.

The **DEQ** **bicle**

Fall 2015

News from inside our cubicle walls

Director's message – Reflection

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I know you've all heard a lot during the past few months about the lead issue in Flint's drinking water. I don't want to rehash the many technical details of the situation here, but I do want to take the opportunity to reflect.

First, I know this is a stressful time for many of you, and I appreciate your continued dedication to finding the best answer for public health. I am proud to work with such a devoted staff.

Second, know that I stand behind our staff working on the lead issue in Flint. I firmly believe they were carefully carrying out the federal Lead and Copper Rule as they understood it at the time. The U.S. EPA recently came forward with new guidance to clarify some ambiguities in the rule, and is committed to working with our staff to further perfect the rule.

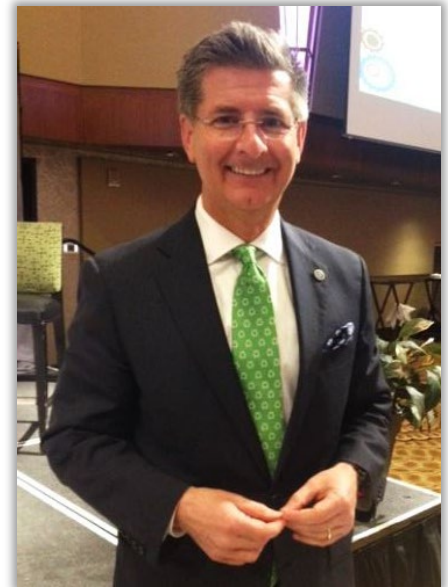
Finally, I hope we all take one reminder forward: Our central mission as an agency is to protect public health and the environment.

But we are a regulatory agency, bound to uphold and enforce NREPA and other statutes. And I recognize we sometimes face complicated situations that leave us feeling constrained by the confines of laws and regulations. In the court of public opinion, there should be an easy answer, and more often than not, there isn't.

But time and time again, I've seen this staff work creatively to figure out the best solution for the public and for the environment. You are all problem solvers, and I respect the expertise and passion of our staff that continually bring forward answers.

As we take time this week to celebrate Thanksgiving, know that I am thankful and honored to lead this staff of dedicated, knowledgeable individuals. Enjoy the holidays with your families and friends, and thank you, as always, for the good work you do.

Dan Wyant, Director



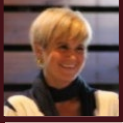
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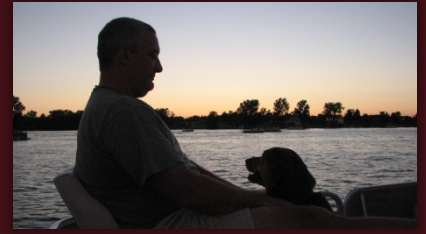
**Winter 2016 issue submission
deadline is January 15, 2016.**



Interview by
Carin Sodeman, OEA

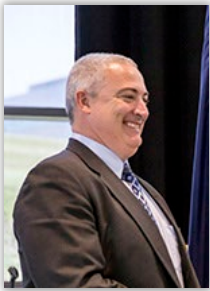
Boilermaker, Family Man, Problem Solver...5 Minutes with Jack Schinderle

If you think you know OEA's Office Chief, you don't know Jack - a humble leader who cares deeply about his family and the people around him. He played football for Purdue and later, continued his sport as a high school coach for over 20 years. A graduate of the Great Lakes Leadership Academy now preparing for graduate school, Jack is passionate about lifelong learning and passing it on.



How long have you been with the DEQ?

25 years.



What do you like most about your job?

I like solving problems and helping others solve problems. More than that, though, I really like the people.

Did you always aspire to do the kind of work you're doing?

No. My stepdad was a builder so I did a lot of carpentry work early on. In college, I dabbled in education, psychology, and even started to pursue engineering, but changed paths after I realized how much computers were involved in the latter (I'm not a big lover of technology). Then I took a chemistry class and really liked it. From that point, things started to fall into place. I credit much of that to a few professors who became mentors – that and meeting my wife around the same time.

Can you elaborate on the mentoring?

I'm not sure I even knew it was mentoring at the time. But looking back, I see that's exactly what it was. They didn't just teach – they built relationships. In fact, I still occasionally talk to one of them through email.

What would you be doing if you never got into this field?

I would probably be living in Chicago, working as a wildlife biologist. My wife and I lived there when our son was a baby, but wanted to raise a family someplace more rural. So, we moved back to Michigan and I started working for the DNR.

Who is your role model and why?

The first person that comes to mind is my grandmother. She attended college at a time many did not – especially women. After graduating from Alma, she became a teacher and later, an administrator. When I was a young adult, she taught me about finances and investing. I've recently learned she, too, liked getting people together to solve problems.



5 Minutes with Jack Schinderle (continued)

Background

Where do you live?

My wife and I live in Eagle with our dog (3/4 Chocolate Lab and 1/4 Doberman). We're currently adjusting to an empty nest as our youngest of three started her first year of college this year. Our oldest (son) is 25, lives in southeast Michigan and has a great gig in software development. Our middle child (daughter) is 24 and in grad school at MSU, graduating in May with her master's in social work. She just got engaged this last weekend, so we're all pretty excited. Our youngest (daughter) is 18 and a freshman at DePaul in Chicago, majoring in biochemistry, with plans to work in healthcare.



What, if any, further degrees or certifications are you pursuing?

After looking around at a few different programs in organizational industrial psychology, I've decided to pursue a master's degree in management at Davenport, starting in January. It's similar to what I was originally seeking – both programs focus on the people side of business, which is what I really like.

You seem excited just talking about it. Does that connect to your role here?

Yes – what excites me about my role here is improving the department. I want organizational excellence and employee engagement to be more than buzzwords. I'm interested in helping make them a reality. I want to help make the department a great place to work.

Can you close with a favorite leadership quote?

"We don't see things as they are, we see them as we are." Anais Nin

Jack Schinderle at a glance:

- Jack's favorite place to visit in Michigan is Ludington where he and his family share many summer memories.
- The last book Jack read was *Government that Works*, by John M. Bernard. When asked for a takeaway, he responded quickly – "Customers define value; employees create value", adding, "Before we can create value, we must first ask customers what that looks like."
- While in the car, Jack is either listening to NPR or MSU's station, The Impact on 88.9.
- As for how Jack spends his weekends (sans kids' activities), he and his wife are still figuring that out. In the summer, that will include going to Lake Isabella, northwest of Mt. Pleasant. In the meantime, they have plans to explore local events.
- When asked which mobile apps he can't live without, Jack laughed and reminded me why he isn't an engineer.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Jennifer Acevedo

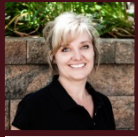


The fall of 2015 was the busiest training season the Office of Environmental Assistance's Training and Outreach Unit has experienced. Due to this busy schedule, the DEQbicle production team decided it would be best to keep this issue lighter. Please make sure to check out the two articles on recent events we held with RRD and OGL in October. It is clear that these events were a success and highlighted our three guiding principles of stewardship, partnership, and service. Thank you for reading, and enjoy your Thanksgiving with friends and family.

Jennifer Acevedo

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RRD hosts successful Environmental Remediation and Risk Management Conference

Submitted by Sara Verbrugge-Pearson, RRD

For the first time in seven years and following significant statutory changes, the Remediation and Redevelopment Division (RRD) hosted the **Environmental Remediation and Risk Management Conference** this October.

The conference was held in three locations, Novi, Traverse City, and Grand Rapids, each with a regional focus highlighted by different case studies. The conference provided a variety of general topic overviews along with site-specific case studies presented by both DEQ staff and project partners including consultants, developers, attorneys, and owners highlighting the collaborative approach to tackling complicated challenges at contaminated sites. Nearly 750 environmental professionals attended these conferences with 300-plus in both Novi and Grand Rapids.



Director of the Office of the Great Lakes, Jon Allan, gave the keynote speech in Novi about the DEQ's new Water Strategy. His speech set the tone for the day, linking the importance of environmental remediation and the value it has on our water here in Michigan. In Traverse City, Raymond Minervini, II kicked off the conference describing the redevelopment of the former Traverse City State Hospital that has become the thriving Village at Grand Traverse Commons where people live, work, and play in a mixed-use neighborhood of condominiums, apartments, offices, shops and award winning locally-sourced food and beverage makers. Jeff Noel and Bob McFeeter inspired the 300 attendees in Grand Rapids with the Harbor Shores redevelopment project that began as a vision for a golf course on contaminated properties and resulted in the transformation of a community.



Following the keynote speaker each day was a morning plenary session that included ten minute "speed dating remediation style" presentations that were given on everything from the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) to redevelopment and flexible certainty in the regulations. An overview of the statutory changes that have occurred over the past five years was also given.

The afternoon sessions featured case studies in four different tracks highlighting vapor intrusion, land and resource use restrictions, no further action (NFA) reports and technical highlights, and the groundwater/surface water interface. Vapor intrusion case studies introduced challenges of former industrial sites. They presented solutions to move the sites toward redevelopment into useful, productive properties. Land and resource use restriction case studies featured alternative institutional controls, community ordinances, and restrictive covenants. Sites achieving NFA status included a former paper mill, a gas pipeline release in a residential area, and several other industrial facilities.

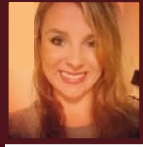


RRD...Environmental Remediation and Risk Management Conference (continued)

Other technical highlights included reef construction projects in Thunder Bay and Saginaw Bay as well as incremental sampling case studies. Groundwater / surface water interface case studies showcased an example of the complexity of a gaining and losing stream in determining pathway relevancy, the importance of site characterization, and remediation considerations when working near surface water bodies. *Presentations from this Conference are available on the [Conference Web site](#).*

In addition to the technical subject matter, another key component to the case studies was highlighting the partnerships that have formed between the DEQ and the external project participants that are key to moving the projects forward. This theme was also carried into the structure of the conference with longer morning and afternoon breaks to encourage networking. Many participants found the networking opportunities to be some of the most valuable time spent at the conference. In fact, one attendee responded to the conference survey by stating, "Conference had quality subjects led by good speakers. The DEQ/consultant networking opportunity was wonderful (great to put a face with a name)."





Protecting beaches from stormwater runoff: Sherman Park Beach Rehabilitation

Submitted by Lauren Wisnieski, WRD

Beaches are a source of pride for Michigan inhabitants and a sought-after vacation destination for tourists. However, sometimes contamination issues result in beach advisories or closures that hinder beach plans. Wildlife, stormwater runoff, and sewer overflows caused by storm events are commonly cited reasons for beach contamination, which often results in beach closures.

There have been over 145 beach advisories and closures in Michigan this year, resulting in loss of recreation days and economic benefit from tourists. Fortunately, many remediation strategies can help protect and improve beaches, including:

- Planting dune grass to stabilize the sand and offer a barrier to parking areas;
- Redirecting storm runoff;
- Adding walkways for pedestrians;
- Placing educational signs to discourage feeding the wildlife and littering;
- Planting rain gardens to filter and collect runoff; and,
- Identifying and correcting contamination sources.



Uncontrolled stormwater runoff on a public beach.

One beach that has benefitted from many of these renovations is Sherman Park Beach, located near Sault Ste. Marie. This beach was targeted for renovation when monitoring indicated that elevated *E.coli* levels resulted from a failing storm drain system. During heavy storms, the sidewalks served as channels for stormwater to flow from the surrounding parking lots onto the beach areas, carrying bacteria and other debris with it. From 2010 to 2013, storm runoff caused one advisory and 13 beach closures. Worse still, a large storm further damaged Sherman Park Beach on September 9, 2013. Runoff eroded some areas by as much as four feet and left the beach closed until May of 2014.

Fortunately, the DEQ received funding from the Great Lake Restoration Initiative, allowing the Chippewa County Health Department to address storm drain issues. The health department added a rain garden, pedestrian foot bridge, infiltration

trenches, and dune grass to manage stormwater. Coarse grain sand helped level out the beach area and eliminate dangerous drop-offs caused by erosion. These renovations made the beach safer and more visually appealing.

During the 2014 and 2015 beach season, Sherman Park Beach closed only two times. The first time was due to a large mayfly hatch that attracted hundreds of birds. The second time was from a storm that brought more than half an inch of rain. Despite the one day closure, the restoration areas functioned properly and prevented stormwater from washing across and eroding the beach. The beach water quality quickly recovered the next day.

This dramatic reduction in advisories and closures, despite a wet summer, indicates this project was a success. With time, the juvenile plants will establish denser root structures in the restoration areas and have more capacity to protect the beach water from contamination by stormwater.



Beach grass plantings for erosion control

Sherman Park Rehabilitation (continued)

On July 28, 2015, Director Dan Wyant visited Sherman Park to discuss the renovations and was featured in Sault Ste. Marie Evening News. He was greatly impressed by the work completed, and complimented all the partners involved.



July 28, 2015 Sherman Park Visit- Pictured: Tom Farquist, Chippewa County Board of Health Member; Jim Moore, Chairman of the Chippewa Board of Health; David Martin, Chippewa County Health Officer; Dan Wyant, MDEQ Director; Christine Daley, Environmental Health Lead Sanitarian; Annette DeMaria, Project Manager, Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc., and Tonya Lewandowski, Project Engineer, Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc.



Tech Tips: Word!

Here are three simple tips to help you work more efficiently within a Microsoft Word Document:

1. Pressing the **CTRL** key and clicking anywhere within a sentence will select the entire sentence.
2. When you open an existing document inside Word, the **Shift+F5** shortcut will take you to the location that you were working on when the document was last closed.
3. Pasting from the Web into a Word document: When you copy a piece from a web page into Word, all the styles and formatting are retained. There is an easy way to remove the styling from any block of text in Word – just select the block and press **Ctrl+Space Bar** and the rich text will be transformed into plain text.

HUMAN RESOURCES

QUARTERLY UPDATE

(July - September 2015)

Welcome new DEQ hires!

- Jason Combs, WRD, Kalamazoo
- Mark Costigan, ODWMA
- Jonathan Doyle, Administration
- Steven Eick, WRD
- Latonya Emanuel, WRD
- Tabitha Faust, RRD Lab
- Weston Hillier, WRD
- Courtney Peatross, Administration
- Lee Schoen, WRD
- Phillip E Shaw, Exec.
- Holly Simons, WRD
- Lisa Twenter, OEA
- Alex Whitlow, OWMRP, Jackson
- Xiaowei Zhang, WRD

Good luck, DEQ retirees!

- David Benchler, OOGM
- Nadine Deak, OWMRP
- Laura DeGuire, AQD
- Cheryl Howe, OWMRP
- Paul Sisson, ODWMA
- Sue Strait, OWMRP
- William Yocum, OWMRP



State of Lake Michigan/Great Lakes Beach Association Joint Conference draws over 400 attendees

Submitted by Shannon Briggs, WRD, and Matt Preisser, OGL



The DEQ hosted a combined conference over 3 days consisting of the [9th Biennial State of Lake Michigan, the 15th Annual Great Lakes Beach Association Conference, and the 8th Annual Freshwater Summit](#).

The combined conference brought together a diverse mix of 450 researchers, agency managers and staff, user groups, non-governmental organizations, business leaders, and everyday citizens for 4 field trips and 21 sessions of scientific presentations describing the biological, chemical, physical, social, and economic status of Lake Michigan and Great Lakes Beaches.



The theme for the combined conference was “Fostering Basin-wide Partnership and Synergy” highlighting the point that just as natural systems are interconnected, Great Lakes practitioners – scientists, managers, policy-makers, and advocates – each contribute a piece to the broader puzzle. Bringing a diverse group together encourages integration to achieve common goals. The program content provided examples of how this is already happening and highlighted potential synergistic opportunities.

This year’s content was among the most diverse of any Joint Conference thus far. In addition to sessions describing the biological, chemical, and physical status of these amazing resources, we ventured a bit further this year to include the social sciences. Discussion involved the way communities relate to water and how people connect to one another around water resources. Presentations from this conference will be available on the [Conference Web site](#).



GREAT LAKES BEACH ASSOCIATION





QOL Scholarship Golf Outing a success!

Submitted by Sarah Howes, DEQ Legislative Liaison

Thanks from the QOL Golf Committee to all participants, volunteers and sponsors for being a key part of making the 3rd Annual QOL Scholarship Golf Outing honoring Gene Thompson another success!

Team scores ranged from two teams shooting a 59 to one team hacking a fun 87. All teams had a chance to dance with the Caddyshack gopher, hit a tee shot off a jug featuring their choice of Directors' photo, and double their money by hitting the green with their tee shot. As I understand, there was even one birdie scored with assistance from both the 150 marker and a tree.



More importantly, with your help, we were able to raise a new record of \$6,400 for the QOL Gene Thompson Scholarship Fund. Since 2007, we have awarded 39 scholarships to QOL employees and their children, for a total of \$19,500. The 2015 winners were Alyssa Maturen and Brett Blayer from DEQ; Annie Davis, Challie Frostick, Daniel Metiva III, Riley Smith and Andrew Trombley from MDARD; and Alec Waples Dexter and Bridget Liesman from DNR.

Special thanks to the following sponsors: United Dairy Industry Council, Voya Financial, Katherine Fedder, Lansing Area Federal Credit Union, Michigan Agri-Business Association, Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association, MSU Federal Credit Union, Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program, Jay Thompson, Miranda Financials and Bonnie Moon. The planning committee would also like to thank the numerous other sponsors for silent auction items, raffle prizes and swag bag donations.



Please place a reminder on your calendar for the 4th Annual QOL Scholarship Golf Outing honoring Gene Thompson on Friday, September 16, 2016, at Eldorado Golf Course in Mason. As you know, it is never too early to put your golf team together for a day of fun, golf, and most of all, the opportunity to support educational scholarships for employees and their children.

If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Howes at 517-284-6707 or HowesS1@michigan.gov or Jeff Haarer at 517-284-5642 or haarerj@michigan.gov.

Upcoming Events

WEBINAR: [Understanding MI Water Quality: 2016 Draft Integrated Report and TMDL Vision](#)

December 10, 10:00 - 11:00 AM

AQD 101 Webinar series- [What is the Michigan Air Emissions Reporting System \(MAERS\) and what is the data used for?](#)

December 16, 10:00 - 11:00 AM

[26th Annual No-Spills Conference: Keeping the Great Lakes Water Pure](#)

Grand Traverse Resort & Spa, Acme - January 4-6, 2016

[Michigan Onsite Wastewater Conference and Exhibits](#)

MSU Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, East Lansing - January 12-14, 2016

AQD 101 Webinar series- [Air Dispersion Modeling: What the heck is it?](#)

January 20, 2016, 10:00 - 11:00 AM

AQD 101 Webinar series- [Stack Testing: What is it and why is it necessary?](#)

February 24, 2016, 10:00 - 11:00 AM

Beyond the cubicle...Tailgate for Hunger



Photos by
Katrina Robinson, OEA



Environmental Assistance Center (EAC) update July - September 2015

**4365 communications
received**

Programs with the most inquiries

1. WRD Field Compliance & Permits
2. AQD Field Operations
3. OWMRP Waste Tracking & Data Management

Most interesting EAC inquiry

Q. I would like to name my pond after my family, how can I do this?

The caller was advised by staff that he would need to speak to his local unit of government.

Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome.

*-Booker T.
Washington*